

## Requiring MUDs to contract with county for elections of MUD directors

HB 2667 by Dutton (Gallegos)

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**DIGEST:** HB 2667 would have required county election officials to administer elections for directors of Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs) in their counties. The requirement would not have applied to an election in a district in which there were 10 or fewer qualified voters at the time the election was called. For districts located in more than one county, the county official in the district with the most inhabitants would have handled the election responsibilities. The district would have been required to pay the county for election services.

**GOVERNOR'S  
REASON FOR  
VETO:**

“House Bill No. 2667 would require Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs) to contract with county election officials to administer elections for directors of the district. Currently, MUDs may conduct their own elections.

“While House Bill No. 2667 is an attempt to bring uniformity to the election process for MUDs, it has not taken into consideration all of the ramifications on the county election process and the impact on taxpaying voters’ access to polling locations. I am a strong believer in providing fair and unfettered access to citizens exercising their right to vote. I also believe that creating uniformity in the election process will be of great benefit to other special taxing districts other than MUDs.

“House Bill No. 2667 fails to take into consideration several unintended consequences, such as the tremendous increase in workload for county officials and the increased cost to the districts and taxpayers. I have instructed my office to work with MUDs, other special taxing districts and county election officials to create a system of uniform elections that will benefit all districts and county election offices.”

**RESPONSE:** Rep. Harold Dutton, the bill’s author, said: “I take the governor’s commitment to create a system of uniform elections that will benefit special taxing districts, including MUDs. I believe HB 2667 was at minimum, a step in that direction. At most HB 2667 brought to light that uniform and fair elections must apply to special taxing districts, including MUDs.

Sen. Mario Gallegos, the Senate sponsor, was unavailable for comment.

**NOTES:** HB 2667 passed the House on the Local, Consent, and Resolutions Calendar and was not analyzed in a *Daily Floor Report*.